

A Possible Glasgow Perforating Machine Maker - “Mr OinCo”.

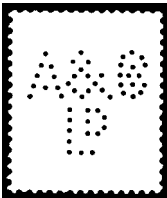
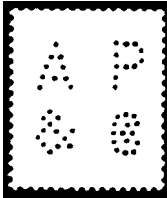
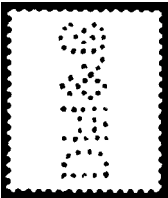
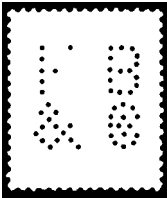
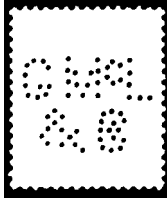
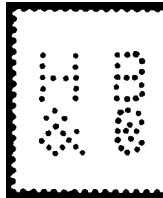
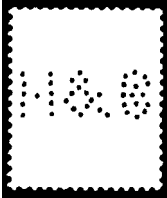
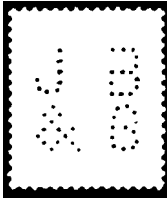
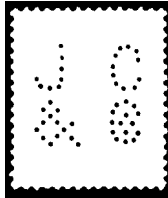
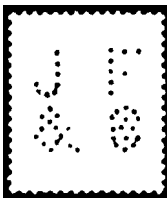
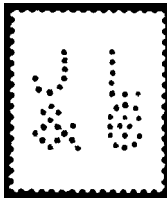
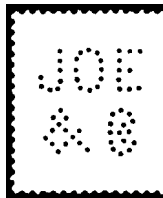
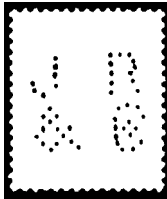
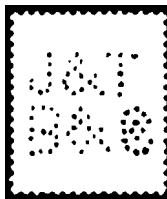
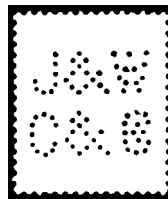
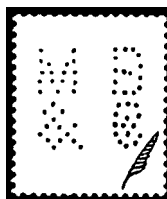
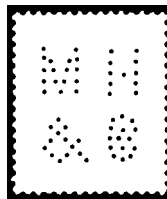
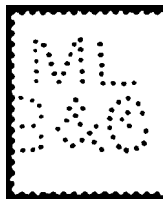
Way back in the Spring of 1996, while compiling sections of the then new Section ‘J’ of the ‘New Illustrated Catalogue of GB Perfins’, a cluster of seven Perfins were found which all had a characteristically similar “^o” in the “C” forming the “C^o” part of the Perfin. More than that, they all had **Glasgow** postmarks, pointing to a Glasgow Perforating Machine Maker. For ease of referring to this unknown maker, he was simply called “**Mr OinCo**”.

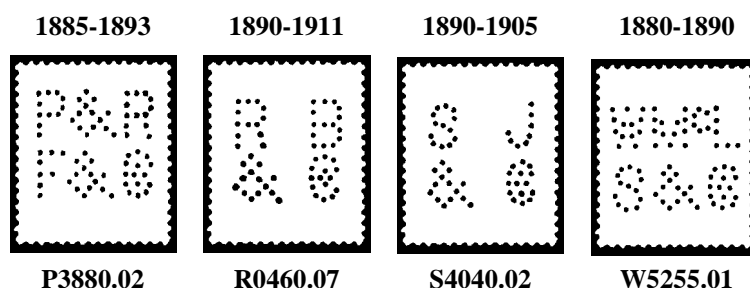
Over the intervening years the embryonic list of seven has grown to over twenty, all showing the characteristic “^o” in “C” for “C^o”, plus a small number of other dies possibly from the same Glasgow maker. On top of that, two of the original “Mr OinCo” dies were later modified involving the removal of the “C^o” portion. All are tabulated at the end of this study along with the silhouettes shown below.

Based on the available evidence, the working period of our Glasgow maker was **1877-1890**. The earliest date reported so far is **21st July 1881** on the fairly common die “J&W/C&C^o” (J8410.02), known used by **J & W Campbell & Co**, Warehousemen, 137 Ingram St, Glasgow. No new dies were made after c1890, and all the dies in the study had ceased being used by the end of the Edwardian era, say c1911.

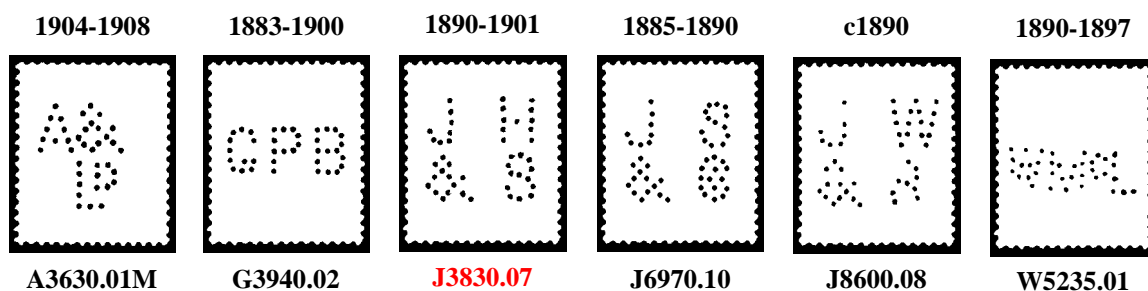
Silhouettes of the dies involved.

The exception to the ‘used in **Glasgow**’ rule is highlighted in **Red**. It was used in **Manchester**.

1881-1904	c1890	c1890	c1883	c1885	1885-1905
					
A1350.01M	A4561.01	D3195.01	F0300.10	G3345.01M	H0530.11
1890-1902	1890-1900	1881-1895	1885-1895	1877-1910	1890-1900
					
H1480.17	J0640.06	J1395.01	J2770.05	J4930.08	J5900.01
1885-1900	c1890	1880-1905	1880-1885	c1895	1885-1893
					
J6460.05	J7607.01	J8410.02M	M0520.07	M2950.03	M3635.01



Two of the following (A3630.01M and W5235.01) show the characteristic “o” in “C” for “C^o”, by virtue of its removal! The ‘Swan-necked’ “S” is also a characteristic - a search through all sections of the ‘Gault Catalogue’ has produced the following possible additions:



Another exception to the ‘used in *Glasgow*’ rule (in **Red**) - this was used in *Edinburgh*.

Who was “Mr OinCo”?

Maurice Harp has researched Glasgow Trade Directories (1870-1930) searching for a possible maker in business 1895-1915, and has come up with the following short list:

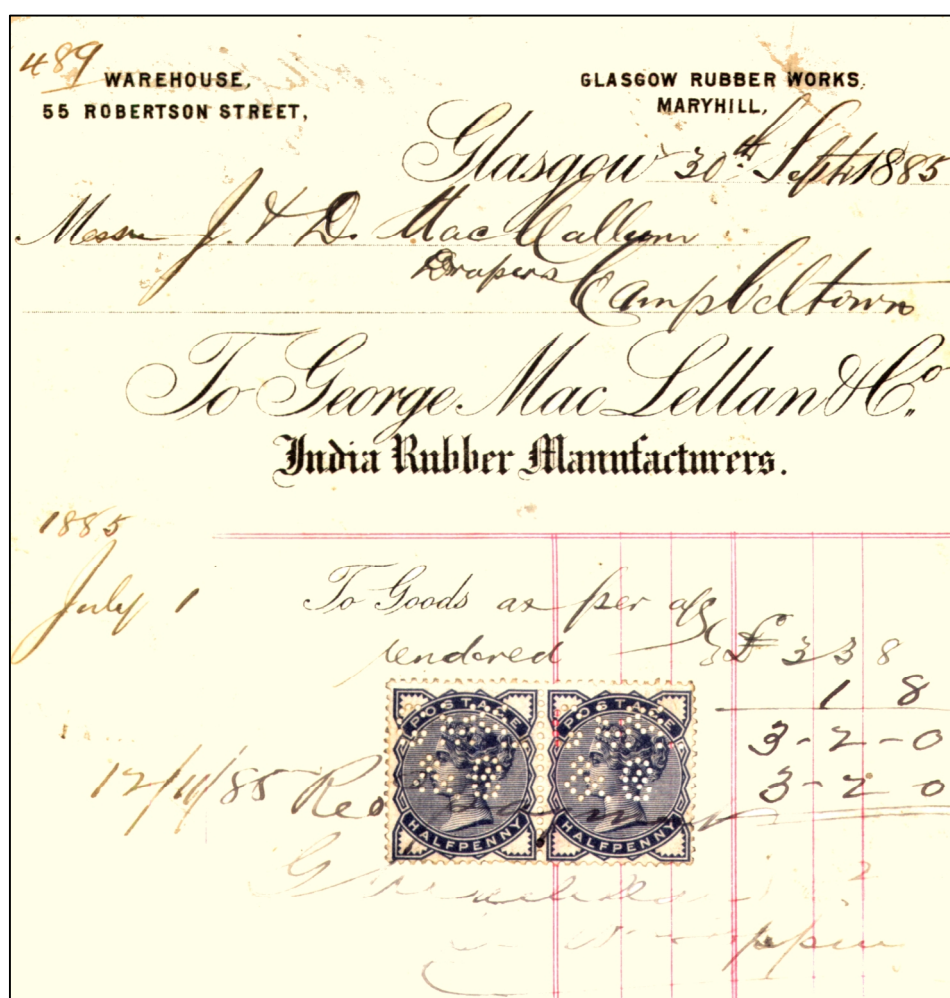
	Company	In Business		Possible
1	Allan & Ferguson	1870-1922	Initial Perforating Machines	Yes
2	James Boardman	1873-1941+	Endorsing Presses	No
3	Thomas Boston	1870-1897	Gem & Seal Engraver	No
4	David Crawford	1873-1907	Die, Stamp & Seal Engraver	No
5	David Cunninghame	1873-1930+	Parallel Motion Endorsing Machines	No
6	Gilmour & Dean	1870-1920+	Engravers & Lithographers	No
7	Archibald & Hamilton	1873-1920+	Embosser, Brand & Stamp Maker	No
8	John Hunter	1879-1903	Postage Stamps Perforated, but short-lived	No
9	M'Laren & Meikle	1878-1918	Perforating Machines for Stamps	Yes
10	Maclure, MacDonald & Co	1870-1920+	Printer & Lithographer	No
11	Metallic Art Co	1887-1910+	Brass Founders	No
12	Alexander Young	1873-1920+	Embossing & Endorsing Presses	No

It would appear that there are **Two** main contenders, ‘Allan & Ferguson’, and ‘M'Laren & Meikle’, both of whom have a similar working period covering the **1877-1890**. My money is on ‘M'Laren & Meikle’ simply because they are explicit in their advertisement in saying ‘*Perforating Machines for Stamps*’.

John Mathews has also been researching who the elusive “Mr OinCo” might have been, and notes that all the known users of the “Mr OinCo” style Perfins were located within half a kilometre radius from the centre of Glasgow, on the north side of the river Clyde. The following is a précis of John’s article which appeared in Bulletin N^o.375 (December 2011).



In the 1881 Glasgow directory the advert shown above refers directly to ‘perforating machines for bills, stamps, etc’. Turning to an 1878 directory though does not show this company, but shows J & H Ramsay, and as the 1881 advert above, it says M’Laren & Meikle were successors to J & H Ramsay. In both the 1894/95 and 1904/05 directories, M’Laren & Meikle have similar advertisements which include ‘Perforating and Numbering Stamps’. Thus, the two companies taken together, cover the full range of the patterns of “Mr OinCo” and must be strong contenders.



Receipt dated 12th November 1885 showing a pair of stamps perforated “GM^cL&C^o”. The missing pin to the base of the “&” in the left-hand stamp points to a multiheaded die.

This is a brief listing of the dies involved, many of which have identified users.

	Cat No.	Letters	Die in use	Earliest Date	Postmark
Dies involving “C^o”.					
1	A1350.01M	A&C ^o /L ^d	1881-1904	22-Nov-89	Mainly ‘159’ Glasgow
2	A4561.01	AP/&C ^o	c1890	---	---
3	D3195.01	DM&C ^o	c1890	---	‘159’ (Glasgow)
4	F0300.10	FB/&C ^o	c1883	---	‘159’ (Glasgow)
5	G3345.01M	GM ^c L/&C ^o	c1885	30-Sep-85	(M)aryhill (Glasgow)
6	H0530.11	HB/&C ^o	1885-1905		Glasgow
7	H1480.17	H&C ^o	1890-1902	15-July-90	Glasgow
8	J0640.06	JB/&C ^o	1890-1900	29-Jan-97	‘159’ Glasgow
9	J1395.01	JC/&C ^o	1881-1895	---	‘159’ Glasgow
10	J2770.05	JF/&C ^o	1885-1895	06-June-89	Glasgow
11	J4930.08	JL/&C ^o	1877-1910	23-June-83	‘159’ Glasgow
12	J5900.01	JOE/&C ^o	1890-1900	08-Oct-91	Glasgow
13	J6460.05	JR/&C ^o	1885-1900	27-May-85	‘159’ Glasgow
14	J7607.01	J&T/B&C ^o	c1890	---	‘159’ (Glasgow)
15	J8410.02M	J&W/C&C ^o	1880-1905	21-July-81	Mainly Glasgow
16	M0520.07	MB/&C ^o	1880-1885	---	‘159’ (Glasgow)
17	M2950.03	MH/&C ^o	c1895	---	‘498’ (Manchester)
18	M3635.01	ML/B&C ^o	1885-1895		‘159’ (Glasgow)
19	P3880.02	P&R/F&C ^o	1885-1893	07-Dec-1887	(G)lasgow
20	R0460.07	RB/&C ^o	1890-1911	16-May-94	Glasgow
21	S4040.02	SJ/&C ^o	1888-1905	03-Aug-89	‘159’ (Glasgow)
22	W5255.01	WM ^c L/S&C ^o	1880-1890	---	‘159’ (Glasgow)
Dies without “C^o”.					
23	A3630.01M	A&L ^d	1904-1908	07-Nov-04	Glasgow, and Leeds
24	G3940.02	GPB	1883-1900	31-Oct-83	‘163’ Greenock
25	J3830.07	JH/&S	1890-1901	18-Oct-91	‘131’ Edinburgh
26	J6970.10	JS/&C ^o	1885-1890	---	‘159’ (Glasgow)
27	J8600.08	JW/&S	c1890	---	‘159’ Glasgow
28	W5235.01	WM ^c L	1890-1897	---	---

The earliest date reported on a “Mr OinCo” die is **21st July 1881**, although the appearance of “JL/&C^o” on Queen Victoria 1d Reds would be considerably earlier (late 1870’s).

Acknowledgements.

My thanks go to all the Perfin collectors who, over the years, have kindly provided stamp details for some of the more elusive dies listed in this study which appeared in the Perfin Society Bulletin (N^o. 264, June 1993). Thanks also for the updates to the article submitted by Finn Binderkrantz, Jack Brandt, Maurice Harp, Steve Netten, and Rosemary Smith.

And finally, if you can add anything new to the study, particularly any dies you think might have been missed or possibly not even known about, *I’d be pleased to hear from you!*

Roy Gault - *1st January 2019*.